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TOP SECRET

17 August 1967

Memorandum to: Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation

Subject: Request for Color Photography of Cuba

1. Attached is a memorandum from NPIC requesting that a mission be flown over Cuba to aid in further evaluation of colored photography for national intelligence purposes. The track for both the light weight "B" camera and the 112-B system will be available

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The NPIC request, attached, will be on the agenda for COMIREX, 24 August.

2. It is suggested that members may wish to review some of the following documents and references pertinent to the use of color. These are:

- a. COMOR-D-13/52-20 of 10 January 1967.
This is a run-down of various actions taken up to that date;
- b. COMOR-D-13/52-21 of 10 March 1967.
This memorandum is pertinent to "Color from Black and White Process."
- c. It is believed that the last reference to color in the NRP was in COMOR-M-409, 20 April 1967, paragraph 24.

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3. It is understood that both the light weight "B" camera and the 112-B system could be made available to SAC. It is requested that DIA be prepared to brief members on the two camera systems and their availability.

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NRO and DIA review(s) completed.

Executive Secretary

Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation

Attachment

Copies 2, 3

State TCO

DIA

5, 6, 7, 8

DIA TCO

9, 10

OACSI TCO

11, 12

ONI TCO

13, 14, 15, 16

AFNIN TCO

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NSA TCO

19, 20, 21

NRO TCO

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Attachment
COMIREX-D-14.5/1
17 August 1967

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Request for Color Photography of Cuba

1. In order that it may conduct a meaningful evaluation of present state-of-the-art color photography for the national intelligence exploitation effort, NPIC requests that a mission be flown over Cuba utilizing a light weight "B" camera in Mode 2 and SO 121 color film. Should a light weight "B" camera not be available, second choice is the 112-B system using SO-121 in one camera and 3404 panchromatic film in the other.
2. Cuba is requested as the area to be flown because for comparative purposes the data base is as good or better than that for any other part of the world, with a variety of priority types of targets, and the area is one with which NPIC photo interpreters are thoroughly familiar.
3. The light weight "B" camera is requested because ground resolution of the product will be more comparable to the ground resolution of the previous black and white photography of the area with which the interpreters are familiar. Scale, too, will be at the available optimum. It is understood that light weight "B" cameras which could be used over Cuba are presently available.
4. The second choice, the 112-B system, with SO 121 in one camera and 3404 in the other, would provide material for evaluation of color and black and white in mono, with the two being utilized for stereo. Ordinarily this would be desirable but the data base for Cuba is such that this simultaneous coverage in black and white and color is not necessary. As indicated in paragraph 3, a second disadvantage is that the scale and ground resolution will not be as good as the previously acquired black and white coverage with which the interpreters are familiar.

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5. In the past color photography in varying amounts and quality has been received from [] missions. The increments have not been suitable for more than highly limited evaluations of intelligence worth because of poor quality, lack of typical intelligence targets, or simply fragmentary and limited amounts. A successful mission such as is requested herein should provide more definitive answers as to the values of color for national intelligence purposes.

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6. A map showing the type of coverage which would be obtained using the requested light weight "B" camera, and a map showing recommended coverage, are available and a list of targets by COMIREX number is attached (TAB A), if the second choice 112-B system is used.

7. It is desirable that the processing of the mission film be done at Eastman Kodak.

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